



STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW

ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER

July 24, 2021

The Honorable Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: ECC Chargebacks

Dear Honorable Members,

Erie County taxpayers continue to be hit hard by state policy that requires municipalities whose students attend a community college outside of Erie County, to pay other counties for those costs.

In 2020, the taxpayers of Erie County paid a total of \$7,672,144.99 to other New York State Counties for the community college education of Erie County residents who choose to attend a school located in a different county.

The so-called "chargeback fees" imposed on the county stems from a New York State policy. The result is your constituents are essentially paying twice; taxpayers already fund a portion of ECC. Then they have to pay again for their students who attend community college elsewhere.

These chargeback fees have risen every year, with the \$291,057.60 increase from 2019 to 2020 being the largest increase in several years. The town of Amherst paid \$1,358,304.19 in chargeback fees in 2020, and the city of Buffalo paid \$957,843.64.

For your convenience I have attached is a list of chargeback fees paid by each municipality in 2020. I'm sure you will agree that this policy is incredibly burdensome to the hardworking taxpayers of Erie County. It also highlights the challenges Erie Community College faces in attracting and retaining students.

Sincerely,

STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW
Erie County Comptroller